



Pierce, Age 18

EDUCATE



Annabelle, Age 3

INSPIRE



Rufus, Age 5

BELIEVE



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers

TWIN CITIES



Our Mission:

To change the way the world views Down syndrome and to send a global message of acceptance for all.

Our Vision:

To see a world where individuals with Down syndrome are accepted and embraced in their families, schools, and communities.

Our Niche

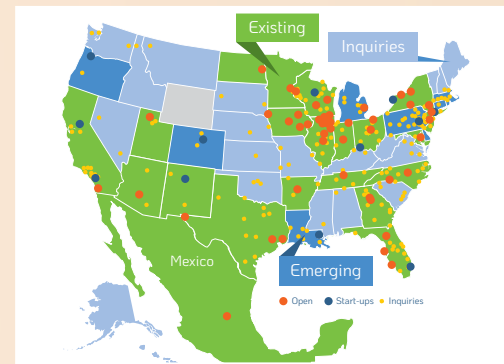
We inspire and change lives through consistent delivery of FREE educational, therapeutic and social/life skills programs for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and community, all in effort to thrive based on their ability.

Our Promise

A lifetime commitment to families.

Our DNA

GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers across North America provide **FREE** progressive, purposeful programs to educate and inspire individuals of all ages with Down syndrome. GiGi's provides a tremendous breadth and depth of educational, therapeutic, and social/life skills programs from prenatal through adulthood.



Currently there are 46 playhouses and another 200 locations in development across North America, including Mexico. **Volunteers are our lifeblood**; nationally, on average, for each staff member, there are 100 volunteers.

**"I want people to see the beauty and potential of our kids, and understand they are so much more than a diagnosis."
-Nancy Gianni, Founder and GiGi's Mom**

GiGi's Playhouse Twin Cities opened its doors in 2013. Our 10,000-square-foot space is equipped with one-on-one tutoring rooms, a full teaching kitchen, computer training room, other classrooms, a theatrical stage, and a full gym.

Twin Cities' Impact Since Doors Opened:

Serving over **600** participants annually

2,000 Volunteers

25,000 Volunteer hours

600 Volunteers for every staff member

Close to **3,000** hours of math and literacy tutoring



Year in Review Growth

Twin Cities is nationally recognized as one of the fastest growing and most successful GiGi's Playhouses in North America.

Exceeding all Key Performance Indicators in the last year!

• Fundraising **+72%** to **\$584K***

• Volunteers are GiGi's lifeblood! # of volunteers **+41%**

• Hit record high of **5,283** participant program check-ins

(* includes all In-Kind Donations)



EDUCATE

INSPIRE

BELIEVE



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Dear Friends-

As we wrap up another successful year at GiGi's Playhouse Twin Cities, it's a time to reflect on the progress we've made so far. Thanks in no small part to the thousands of financial supporters and our amazing, energetic, compassionate, committed volunteers who come through our doors each year, we have grown to become one of the largest GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers in all of North America. It has truly been a remarkable, joyous, hopeful and determined journey so far.

For all of you who have committed your heart, hands and resources to the center, please take a moment to celebrate what we have created together! Nothing is more inspiring to us than watching our participants run into our Playhouse with sheer joy and excitement, ready to build their confidence and have fun no matter their age. Seeing that "GiGi's magic" through the eyes of our participants is what inspires us as we continue to build towards the GiGi's vision of changing the way the world sees Down syndrome.

This year, we have grown to 25 educational, therapeutic and life skill programs offered close to 100 times annually. We have had close to 1,000 participant check-ins in across our three locations: Our 10,000 square foot Achievement Center in St. Louis Park along with our two new satellite locations in the South Metro and Hudson, Wisconsin.

Our focus continues to be on building awareness of GiGi's Playhouse so that we can reach and positively inspire all of the estimated 4,000 individuals with Down syndrome across our metro area. As we move forward this year, our priorities include 1) Increasing community awareness of our FREE-FOR-PARTICIPANTS progressive, purposeful programming 2) Enhancing outreach efforts, particularly to underrepresented communities 3) Sustaining and building satellite locations for long term success, and 4) Excelling in every aspect of our operations so that we continue to lead the way for centers across the entire network.

We have so much to celebrate and so many opportunities in front of us! Let's continue our work together so we can continue to see the power of "GiGi's magic" unlock the full potential of individuals with Down syndrome in the Twin Cities area!

Cheers,



Fran Fabrizio
Board President
GiGi's Twin Cities



Tim Hawley
Executive Director
GiGi's Twin Cities

2018-2019 Major Accomplishments

EPIC Expansion (Empowerment, Participation, Independence and Community Involvement)

GiGi's Playhouse Twin Cities expanded EPIC programming to further build social, communication, fitness and independent living skills to empower and build confidence for our adult participants. We increased participation by almost 5 times from the previous year to more than 60 adults. In all, each participant received a total of 36 hours of hands-on instruction, plus in-home assignments including presentations, fitness training and meal planning and preparation.



Satellite Location Launch in East and South Metro

With our main location in Saint Louis Park, GiGi's Playhouse Twin Cities is the first Metro in North America to open two satellite locations simultaneously in an effort to solve geographic distance problems and increase access to programming. Both locations (Hudson, WI, and South Metro in Apple Valley, MN) are now offering a variety of programming on a weekly and monthly basis. Our long term goal is to serve the Twin Cities metro to maximize our impact.



Activation to reach a broader, more diverse community

Currently, both Hispanic and Somali families with individuals with Down syndrome are underserved. We recognized the importance of reaching out to both communities to offer our programs and expand our community to better serve these families. We now have two new parent groups, each meeting at GiGi's Playhouse. Both groups will continue meeting on a regular basis. Our next step is to expand, adopt, and more deeply deliver programming options for their children.



Our Stories

GiGi's Playhouse inspires and changes lives, building success for our participants across their lifespan! Families share how GiGi's is truly magical; volunteers talk about how GiGi's Playhouse gives them so much more than they could give in return. We see this in the sheer joy on our participants' faces when they walk through our doors... Our Smiles and Impact Stories capture our DNA of laughter, love and pure happiness that provides the foundation for a lifetime of success.



Gianna >>>

NEW to the Twin Cities

We moved to the Cities a little over a year ago with our 20-year old daughter, Gianna. We were hoping to find a place where she could make some new friends and feel a part of a loving, inclusive community and were fortunate to find GiGi's Playhouse in Saint Louis Park.

Because we came from a small community in northern Minnesota, Gianna had not had the opportunity to be around very many other kids with special needs. She really only knew one other person with Down syndrome. At GiGi's Playhouse, almost immediately, I saw Gianna blossom with smiles and her animated personality that makes her so special. We were so excited for her to meet many other people just like herself. Thank you GiGi's for bringing my daughter's heart, soul, and sassiness out, with a flair!

Honestly, when we are at GiGi's Playhouse, it is some of our best hours of our week. I am still in awe that all GiGi's programs are completely free; Gianna has been involved with EPIC and Fantastic Friends. She cannot wait to be in the Theater group this Fall. It means so much to me that for the first time I have had the opportunity to meet other parents and have learned a ton from them. I love being able to visit with people who have had similar experiences and concerns. As a parent, GiGi's has given me the opportunity to share my concerns, even at times share my soul with other parents and quite frankly there is no place like GiGi's for parents like me.

I recently went through the volunteer training and look forward to being more involved with the programs offered at GiGi's. **-Sandy, Gianna's Mom**





Erin Long >>>

Life Changing Experience

I came to GiGi's thinking I was going to help others feel comfortable and loved, but it was the exact opposite—GiGi's has made me feel so incredibly loved, special and important. GiGi's has transformed me and is now an incredibly significant part of my life. GiGi's is a place of laughter, love and pure happiness. I run around with the toddlers, I play tag with the kids, I sing karaoke with the teens, and I cook with the adults — oh, and I end up dancing with all of them.

At the Volunteer Appreciation Night, the adults from EPIC gave speeches about what GiGi's means to them. I remember Brian gave a speech about how GiGi's has changed his life and he didn't know where he would be without it. He was crying, and the volunteers were crying, and I think that moment really captured what GiGi's is: a life changing place where you will always be loved, supported, and appreciated. I think everyone needs a GiGi's in their life. Everyone needs a place where they dance with sheer joy and unconditional acceptance! **-Erin, Student Volunteer**



Sahra and Mustaf >>>

A Mother's Love for her Son and her Community

When Sahra brought home Mustaf from the hospital in 2003, she didn't have much information about Down syndrome — nor was there anyone she knew of that could answer her questions about Down syndrome in the Somali language. With no referrals to help, Sahra started doing her own research about Down syndrome and discovered that people with Down syndrome develop and learn in different ways compared to their typically-developing peers.

She reached out to parents with children with Down syndrome at Mustaf's school and thankfully discovered GiGi's Playhouse Twin Cities. When Sahra brought Mustaf to GiGi's, she felt a sigh of relief and pure joy. She immediately enrolled him in literacy and math tutoring, social skills groups, Team G Basketball and more recently, Everyone Can Dance. She saw Mustaf thriving and gaining confidence through his GiGi's experience.

Sahra shared that growing up in Somalia, people with Down syndrome exist, but not out in public — from birth, people with Down syndrome are immediately sent off to a hospital for the rest of their lives. In 2018, Sahra was inspired to change this misperception in her adopted community. Together with GiGi's Playhouse and The Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota, a Somali Parent Group was created.

For the last year, GiGi's Playhouse has become a home away from home, giving Somali parents a chance to network with each other and begin to believe their children with Down syndrome all have so much potential. This has happily led to more Somali families becoming involved with GiGi's Playhouse Twin Cities' progressive, and purposeful, programming. **-Staff interview with Sahra, Mustaf's Mom**





4740 Park Glen Road, St. Louis Park



Our Facility >>>

10,000 Square Foot
Inclusive Experience

- A** Tutoring Rooms
- B** Kitchen
- C** Full Gym
- D** Sea Life Sensory Room
- E** Classrooms
- F** Play Areas
- G** Social Areas
- H** Stage



We Offer 25 FREE Educational, Therapeutic and Life Skills Programs

Our calendar year begins every September, with close to 1,000 participant check-ins throughout our four semester sessions, including summer. Our programs range from one-on-one tutoring to small groups to larger, more socially-based programs.

Most Popular Programs include:
Education-Based Favorites

- One-on-One Math Tutoring
- One-on-One Literacy/Reading Tutoring
- Drama Troupe (which includes an annual Broadway show performance)
- PJs and Books Reading Club



Therapeutic and Fitness-Based Favorites

- Music Therapy
- Yoga
- Young Athletes
- Everyone Can Dance



Life Skills-Based Favorites

- Self-Advocacy
- Social Skills
- Healthy Meal Planning and Preparation
- Computer Training

2018 Audited Financial Overview

INCOME	
Contributions	\$ 90,178.00
Grants	\$ 30,000.00
Special Events	\$ 407,117.00
In-Kind Donations	\$ 19,921.00
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 556,725.00

EXPENSES	
National Mission Support	\$ 43,386.00
Contract Services	\$ 12,685.00
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 24,842.00
Facilities and Equipment	\$ 126,833.00
Operations	\$ 42,312.00
Payroll Expense	\$ 109,603.00
Special Event Expenses	\$ 102,141.00
Total Expenses	\$ 470,323.00

Net Assests at Beginning of Period	\$ 484,240.00
Net Assests at End of Period	\$ 570,639.00

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BELIEVE





The Statz Brothers

2019-2020 Programming Priorities

Launch the Empowerment and Independence Center of Excellence

The NEW Center of Excellence will take our successful EPIC program to the next level to help empower adults age 18+ with a progressive, three-companion program curriculum including: 1) Nutritional Meal Budgeting & Preparation 2) Fitness & Living Healthy 3) Social Skills & Computer Social Media Use.

Diversity Outreach & Programming

In the coming year, GiGi's Playhouse Twin Cities will adapt and expand programing for both the Somali and Hispanic communities. The goal is to better serve and positively infuse our progressive and purposeful programming into both communities.

Optimize Satellite Location Growth and Sustainability

Our priority in the upcoming year is to sustain growth and operations while upholding GiGi's Mission and Standards in both satellites. Our focus for each location will be 1) building breadth and depth of volunteers, 2) engagement and support of local communities, and 3) expand programming appropriately to help ensure long-term success.

Maximizing the Playhouse Experience

Our goal is to continue to enhance and expand our participants' experience and to provide them with the most meaningful upgrades they want/need to thrive throughout their life.

• Cardio Club -- Everyone deserves a healthy heart!

One universal characteristic of a Down syndrome diagnosis is low muscle tone, which can often include the heart. The vision for GiGi's Cardio Club is to create a semi-enclosed, safe space in our Gym with stationary bikes and rowing machines.

• Teen Enrichment ZONE – Teens and Young Adults like their own space to hang out!

Create/design an inviting, open-design space, featuring cozy furniture, a reading nook, and sensory materials.

• Stage and Theatre Renovation –

Every GiGi's Playhouse has a stage for our stars. Our participants want to transform our stage to be more theatrical, not only cosmetically, but with a full stage/home theatre system for program expansion, performances, and social activities.

• GiGi's Summer Camp – Educate, Inspire, and Energize More to Believe

Summer is a time to be with friends and fill long summer days with fun, laughter and relaxation. Extending our purposeful, progressive programming into a unique GiGi's Summer Camp is a rich opportunity.



Lily and Linus

2019-2020 Sponsorship Opportunities

Opportunity	Benefit	Estimate Cost
Launch Empowerment and Independent Center of Excellence	Confident and Independent Adults	\$45,000
Multi-cultural programs and outreach	Serve more families with language barriers	\$25,000
Satellite Location sustainability and growth	Maximize 7-county metro impact with Satellite Locations	\$20,000 for each location
Relevant and Fresh playhouse experience upgrades for participants of ALL ages!	Enhanced multi-dimensional playhouse experience including;	
	Program Expansion for ALL ages	\$20,000
	(Cardio Club – Everyone deserves a healthy heart	\$12,500
	Refurbish Playhouse Theatre and Audio/Video System	\$10,000
	Teen Enrichment ZONE	\$7,500
	Technology/Fitness/Social Skills/Summer Camp)	\$5,000 (Annual Program)
Wall of Champions Presenting Sponsor	Celebration of Sponsors and Volunteers	\$5,000
Expand GiGi's Playhouse Twin Cities Awareness Campaign and resources	Campaign targeted to Special Education, School District, Commerce, & Business Communities	\$25,000



I Have a Voice Gala Sponsorship Levels

TITLE SPONSOR: \$25,000

PLATINUM SPONSOR: \$10,000

GOLD SPONSOR: \$5,000

SILVER SPONSOR: \$2,500

BRONZE SPONSOR: \$1,000

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SPONSOR: \$500



i have a Voice

Our Donors

Thank you for making GiGi's Playhouse Twin Cities one of the largest in North America

\$50,000 – \$25,000

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Feb 8

GiGi's Playhouse
Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
Save the Date

GiGi's Playhouse Twin Cities presents
"i have a Voice" Gala
Saturday February 8, 2020
Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot



Annual Report

Pierce, Age 18



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2018-2019

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Rufus, Age 5

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